

Three dollars is still better than nothing - well, sort of

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Well, we guess getting a \$3 abatement on DuPage County property taxes is better than getting poked in the eye with a sharp stick.

It's not quite as good as the original proposal under which the owner of a typical home in the county would get a whole \$7, but three bucks is still three bucks.

And, no, it really isn't an April Fool's Day joke but we wouldn't blame anyone who thought this was so.

All this largesse comes because the county's financial woes were alleviated by the new quarter-cent sales tax passed by the state Legislature, which is estimated to generate some \$20 million. After the County Board dedicated \$10.5 million of the new money to halt dozens of proposed layoffs, there was still some \$9.5 million to spend.

Ultimately, the County Board decided to rebate \$1 million in taxes, which is where that three bucks for the owner of that typical home comes in.

So, depending on the value of your house, you may get an abatement of a buck or two more than \$3 or perhaps a little less.

We hate to sound ungrateful, and we're glad the state Legislature passed the sales tax measure, but at a time when the economy, including the vitally important housing industry, is soft, and people are losing their homes and/or their jobs, \$3 doesn't mean much - but then \$7 wouldn't have either.

We also doubt that when people get their tax bills, they'll look at the multiple thousand dollar total and say, "Well, it could have been \$3 worse, so we guess we're lucky."

After all, other taxing districts and their portions of the overall property tax bill make the county relatively insignificant - any school district and the city of Naperville with its tax hike said to be due to hiring lawyers to defend the Furstenau lawsuit leap instantly to mind.

Maybe it's best to look at it this way.

Three dollars may not be much, but its more than you're going to get from some of the other taxing bodies.